



Town of Dighton
Economic Development Committee
979 Somerset Avenue
Dighton, MA 02715
Tel: (508) 669-6431

MINUTES FOR June 23, 2025

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT: Laura Smith, Dan Higgins, Paul Reynolds (via Zoom), Rafael Delfin (via Zoom)

Agenda:

1.) Old Business:

- **Update on bylaw changes recently enacted**

The Committee had authored three warrant items at last Town Meeting. Working with the Planning Board and Board of Assessors, all three were passed:

- Revise bylaws for Home based businesses by right
- Revise bylaws for Home based businesses by special permit
- Provide personal property tax exemption for small businesses

- **Discuss/Review updates on use of Town parcels for Agricultural Leasing**

Laura Smith met with the Agricultural Committee to discuss the town owned properties that had been suggested as possible lease opportunities for agricultural use. Their consensus was that none of the properties would lend themselves easily for that use.

2.) New Business:

- **Budget review**

The budget for the upcoming fiscal year is \$900. None of the unspent funds from the previous year were encumbered, due to an offer received from the DR High School marketing program to assist with creating a marketing video/campaign. Originally those unspent funds had been reserved with the expectation of hiring a marketing consultant to do the work. That is no longer necessary.

- **New business openings since last meeting**

There have been four new business openings since our last meeting. Welcome cards from the committee were sent to each. Welcome to each of them and we wish you

success. One of them, AGG services Inc, did request to be added to the worn online business directory under the category of “Trucking - Light Hauling”.

- The Late Anchor
- Little Lemon Press
- AGG Services Inc
- Peaceful Soul Wellness

- **Review web page updates**

The web page at www.dightonbusiness.com has been updated with new formatting and adding section for local business events and commercial property availability. Also optimized for smart phone browsers, there are a few differences between the appearance on a smart phone versus a PC browser.

- **Quarterly meeting with Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce**

The Chamber has begun a series of quarterly meetings with economic development representatives from each of the towns they represent, including Dighton. The meetings provide each town an opportunity to share experiences, insights, and recommendations with each other. Both the Dighton Town Administrator and I have attended.

- **Discuss/Review/Act on Committee Marketing efforts**

The committee had set aside funds from last year's budget that we planned to encumber and together with this year's funds, hire a marketing firm to assist with creating a video that we could use. At a previous meeting this Spring however the suggestion had been made to reach out to DR High School to see what help they may be able to contribute. Dan Higgins did contact them, and the High School has a 3-year marketing program for students. He spoke with the teacher in charge and arranged to meet with the students in April and discuss the proposal. Both the instructor and students were very excited about taking on the project. Given how late it was in the school year, the idea was that it would start right away with the Juniors and Seniors, understanding that the Seniors would be graduating soon. The project will then pick up next Fall with the same Juniors (now Seniors) and the new Juniors class. No definite time frame has been set but late Winter 2025/early Spring 2026 would probably be the expected completion time. The High School will be doing this at no cost, so not only was there no longer a need to encumber last year's unspent funds, but we now have more options for use of this year's funding.

Also at a recent Chamber of Commerce networking event, Dan Higgins spoke with someone from the Taunton High School. He also offered support if needed from their student video editing group. DR appears to have that aspect covered but it was good to know of additional resources that may be utilized.

Paul Reynolds suggested a couple ideas for new initiatives, including:

- Various tax incentive arrangements
- Chapter 43D for Expedited Permitting for remediation of contaminated/brownfield areas
- Any historical significance to commercial buildings in town and use of CPC funds for rehabilitation

The discussion was had of a local networking event, possibly with a speaker.

- **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Laura Smith to accept meeting minutes for Nov 25 2024 , Jan 27 2025, and Mar 3 2025. Second Paul Reynolds.

Motion passed unanimously.

- **Set next meeting date**

Next meeting set for Monday July 28th at 6pm.

- **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned 6:35pm.